



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 155

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2009

No. 26

## Senate

The Senate met at 1 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BARBARA BOXER, a Senator from the State of California.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O Lord, as our lips are open in prayer, so may our hearts be open to receive Your spirit. Help us to bow to Your will and live lives devoted to Your providential leading.

Bless our Senators in their work. Let faith, hope and love abound in their lives. Help them to seek to heal our hurting Nation and world and to be forces for harmony and goodness. Lord, may they have much needed wisdom in making decisions regarding the stimulus bill. Remind them that if they ask for Your wisdom, You will grant it in abundance. May they seek to serve rather than be served, following Your example of humility and sacrifice. Open their minds and give them a vision of the unlimited possibilities available to those who trust You as their guide.

We pray in the Name of Him who is our refuge from life's storms. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, February 9, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BARBARA BOXER, a Senator from the State of California, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Mrs. BOXER thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 1. The time until 5:30 will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. At 5:30, the Senate will vote in an attempt to end the filibuster. That will be on the Collins-Nelson substitute amendment. Cloture will be voted on at that time.

The Presiding Officer and I came to Congress together many years ago. We have been now serving in the Senate together for many years. Last week reminded me of when we first came to the Senate. There was open debate, amendments offered—that is what happened last week. Faced with the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, Senators from both parties engaged in serious debate over the best way forward.

Realizing the critical need for action, we moved President Obama's economic recovery plan as quickly and as responsibly as we could. But even though we wanted to move it as quickly and as responsibly as we could, we did not do anything to cut off debate or limit the opportunity of every Senator to have

their say. Both Republicans and Democrats were given the opportunity to offer amendments and each received votes on their amendments. Many Democratic and Republican amendments were adopted and, on the whole, the amendment process strengthened the legislation.

A bipartisan group of Senators, led by Senators NELSON, LIEBERMAN, SNOWE, COLLINS, and SPECTER, worked tirelessly during last week to forge a compromise amendment, to focus the bill on job creation and tax relief. All this work has resulted in the legislation that is now before the Senate. This evening we will vote on cloture, setting up a vote on final passage for tomorrow. After final passage, the House and Senate will move to conference between the House and the Senate and then send the enrolled bill to the President's desk.

We are going to do our utmost to do this as quickly as possible. The Republican leader and I have agreed on a general position as to how we are going to move forward with the conference, and I will visit with him some more later today. But we have to complete this work this week. There is every opportunity for us to complete it by Friday. Even though it is a complex bill, the bill now has been on the desk since Saturday and people have had an opportunity to read and review this in detail.

We will hopefully pass this tomorrow. We will put this side-by-side with the bill that has passed the House, and come back with a proposal that is bold, is robust, is job creating.

I was with the Governor of Maryland last night, and he was so happy about the work we had done in the Senate. He indicated to me he had spoken to other Governors. In fact, he called me again this morning indicating he had spoken to other Governors around the country, and they were quite happy with this legislation. It is my understanding the President is in a place called Elkhart,

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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